

II. RESPONSE

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 67-97 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement. Claims 70-72 and 74-97 are canceled in view of the election of the Group II invention below. Claim 73 is provisionally withdrawn from consideration, in the event that traversal of the restriction between the Group II and Group IV inventions set forth below is not successful.

In view of the above, claims 67-69 and 73 are pending after entry of the amendment.

B. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute the Group II invention in the present application, as exemplified by current claims 67-69, drawn to a method of treating an ACE2 decreased state by administering an ACE2 activator.

The election of the Group II invention is without traverse with regard to the Group III, Group V, and Group VI inventions.

The restriction between the Group II and Group I inventions is traversed, because the terms "agonist" and "activator" are synonymous, and the Group I and Group II inventions are not distinct inventions. In order to avoid any confusion regarding terminology and move toward prosecution on the merits, Applicants have deleted the term "agonist" from the current claims, rendering the restriction between Group II and Group I moot.

Applicants further traverse the restriction between the Group II invention (claims 67-69) and the Group IV invention (claims 67-69 and 73). The Group IV invention, as defined by the Requirement, differs from the Group II invention merely in that claim 73, the sole claim that is different between the two groups, recites that an additional agent, an ACE inhibitor, is administered in conjunction with the ACE2 activator in the methods of the claims. Notably,

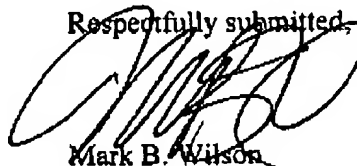
claim 73 is dependent on claim 67, and merely adds an additional limitation to the broader claim 67. All of claims 67-69 and 73 have the common inventive core of administering an ACE2 activator to treat an ACE2 decreased state. Therefore, it is requested that the restriction between Group II and Group IV be withdrawn and that claim 73 considered with the Group II invention.

C. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants believe that they have submitted a complete reply to the Restriction Requirement dated January 3, 2006, and respectfully request favorable consideration of the claims in view of the amendments and statements contained herein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-3035.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark B. Wilson
Reg. No. 37,259
Attorney for Applicant

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
512.536.3035 (voice)
512.536.4598 (fax)

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